

NEWS RELEASE



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Week Long Canoe Trip Teaches US History

5 students, 50 miles, 5 days equals hands-on learning about US History. Richmond Waldorf School 8th grade teacher, Phil Pollard is about to embark on a journey with his students that will be etched into their memories for years to come. While most students are barely adjusting to the new school year, Mr. Pollard's class will be packing for a week long canoe trip from Henricus to Jamestown. In an example of the inspired learning prevalent through Waldorf education, the students will learn history, geography, orienteering, meteorology, and astronomy.

"I love that my son is going to experience geography in a living manner." Says parent Claudia Thomas.

Pollard's students will depart Henricus on Monday, September 14, and paddle to Weston Manor where they will be engaged in a tour of the plantation to learn about the generations of families who resided at Weston, including the Gilliam and Eppes families, and the Civil War adventures of little Emma Wood based on her own journal that the class will read. The next morning they will paddle to Westover Plantation known as the ancestral seat of the Byrd family in Virginia. The present stately 2-1/2-story brick mansion (c. 1730-1734) of early Georgian style is notable for the quality of its construction and for its completeness of design. It was built by William Byrd II (1674-1744), a planter, public official, and author especially noted for his posthumously published letters and diaries.

After another night camping the group leaves for Fort Pocahontas the site of an earthen fort built and manned by hundreds of United States Colored Troops under the direct command of Brigadier General Edward Augustus Wild. The May 24, 1864, action resulted in a victory for the USCTs against an attack led by Major General Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee's nephew. Thursday and Friday the students will make their way to their final destination in Jamestown.

"I could talk about these places and the importance of the James River for weeks, but why not let the students learn about them by going there?" says Pollard.

About Richmond Waldorf School:

Waldorf Education is the fastest growing alternative education movement in the world today with over 800 schools worldwide. At Richmond Waldorf School, we awaken a child's mind and imagination through a traditional academic curriculum fully integrated with the visual and performing arts. Active, hands-on daily lessons connect meaningfully across the curriculum, developing in students a deep awareness of the forms and shape and patterns that weave together art, science, music, mathematics, language, history, and culture, and inspiring in them a reverence for the wonder of the world around them and true passion for learning as the work of a lifetime. To learn more, visit www.richmondwaldorf.com or call 377-8024 to learn more; now enrolling pre-K through grade 7 for 2007-2008 school year.

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